

CHATTEWAY THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1913



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Grad test has new format

SCOTT STEWART

SENIOR STAFF WRITER / SYSTEMS MANAGER

Many students pursuing graduate school will soon have a new hurdle to jump.

The Graduate Record Examination is scheduled for the "most significant overhaul" of its 55-year history, according to press releases by Educational Testing Services, the national assessment manufacturer that also manages the SAT college admissions examination.

"We haven't even looked at it yet," said Penny Harmoney, director of graduate studies.

The most significant change to the GRE will be a move to a computer-driven linear test offered on regular test dates worldwide. The exam was previously offered on a continuous basis, and could be taken either with pencil and paper or using a computer-adaptive program.

Computer-adaptive exams base each question of the student's performance on the previous question, so the exam is different for each student, explained Marion Fortin-Wavra, director of the UNO Testing Center. Linear exams are like traditional pencil-and-paper tests; every student sees the same set of questions.

The move from a computer-adaptive exam to a linear exam will cause the GRE to expand its length, creating two 40-minute verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning sections each, rather than the current 30-minute verbal and 45-minute

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Color Me Human: Diversity week



Online chatting: Students should be cautious

LEIA BAEZ
DAY EDITOR

Thousands of UNO students peruse Internet communities each day. While posting personal information to meet new people may seem exciting, students should be aware of their safety.

According to MySpace.com, a popular online blog/music/community site, more than 2,800 UNO students have their own page. More than 1,500 UNO students are

registered on Facebook.com, a site similar to MySpace, but limited to college students, faculty and alumni.

"From what we've found from some students we've talked to, they are using technology online as a different means of

See ONLINE SECURITY: Page 4

Library renovations still on schedule

CHRIS LARSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Construction on the new addition of the University Library is progressing on time and on budget, with the grand opening still scheduled for October 2006.

"This is really good news because it means that all of the features we had planned for the building are still going to happen," said Stephen Shorb, dean of University Library.

Some of these features include an indoor/outdoor reading space, study areas, a café and graduate student study areas. The café is going to be run by the Milo Bail Student Center food services, Shorb said. They are already working on new menu items for the café.

"They have the food concession for campus," Shorb said. "I think they will be much easier to work with than an outside vendor."

Most of the final decisions have been made for the finished product. The color scheme they decided to go with was the one the majority of the students voted for last fall: tan and navy, with some modifications, Shorb said. Administrators met with the committee that is going to select the public art for the new addition. According to a Nebraska provision, 1 percent of the budget must be spent on artwork.

Shorb said the biggest

problem they have been facing thus far in the construction process is the traffic around the construction site.

"We know that's created some inconveniences for people having to wait to get out of the parking lot," Shorb said.

This may seem problematic to some, but not all students view the construction as an inconvenience.

"It's nice to have construction that doesn't affect my daily life for a change," said Melissa Gubbels, a sophomore accounting major. "The addition will be nice when it's complete, but at least it isn't causing problems as it progresses."

The committee for library

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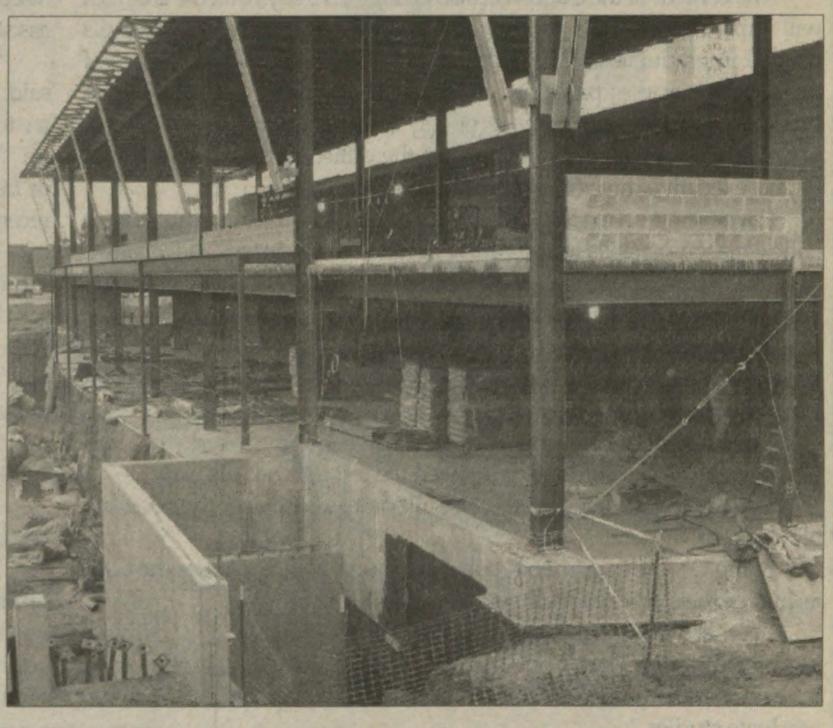


photo by Diane Rockhold

The new library wing is set to be finished on schedule.

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News You Can Use

News You Can Use COMPILED BY ANGI SADA

ABC Breakfast with Martin Luther King III to be rescheduled

UNO is currently seeking to reschedule the Feb. 1 UNO Academy, Business and Community (ABC) Breakfast Speaker Series presentation featuring Martin Luther King, III. King's mother, Coretta Scott King, died early Tuesday morning.

The breakfast will be rescheduled for a later date in February.

King serves as CEO and president of the King Center in Atlanta, Ga. He is the second oldest child of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King.

Tickets purchased for Feb. 1 will be honored at the rescheduled event. For more information, call 554-2981.

Student participation sought for NSSE

UNO students who were freshman or seniors during the fall 2005 semester and are still enrolled this spring will be invited to participate in a national online survey on student engagement starting Friday, Feb. 3.

NSSE, the National Survey of Student Engagement, is a nationwide survey of

freshmen and seniors that looks in-depth at experiences in the classroom, student engagement outside the classroom and overall satisfaction with academic programs and student progress.

The survey will open Friday, Feb. 3. UNO students will receive an e-mail with the subject line "TellNSSE" that invites them to participate and provides a link to the Web site. The survey will be conducted entirely online.

The survey is voluntary and confidential. No individual student responses are identifiable.

Questions about the survey should be directed to the Office of Institutional Research at 554-2367 or Linda Mannering at lmannering@mail.unomaha.edu.

Registration begins for summer science, math camps

Registration for the 2006 session of the Aim for the Stars Summer Science and Math Camps at UNO has begun.

A number of new camps will be featured this year, including Physics for Ninth Graders, Geology for Ninth Graders and Forensic Chemistry.

For more information, visit the Web at physics.unomaha.edu. To request a brochure via campus mail or for additional information, call 554-4999.

Progressive editor to speak at UNO

Matthew Rothschild, editor of The Progressive will present "The Case for Impeachment" during a public presentation at UNO on Feb. 23. The event is free of charge and open to the general public. It will begin at 7 p.m. in Dodge Room A of the Milo Bail Student Center. For more information about the event contact Bruce Johansen at bjohansen@mail.unomaha.edu.

Latin and Tango dance lessons begin Feb. 12

Campus Recreation and the Wellness Stampede are teaming up to offer Latin and Tango dance lessons this spring at UNO. All classes will be held in room 230 of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building. Openings are available on the following

Sundays (Feb. 12, 19, 26 and March 5) Latin - 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Tango - 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

To have a flier mailed or faxed to your office, call University Affairs at 554-2358.

To register, stop by room 100 in HPER. For more information, call Campus Recreation at

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the story regarding the sit-in recently staged on campus.

As written in the "Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities":

"The university acknowledges the rights of members to express their views by peaceful demonstration. UNO is an academic community founded upon a belief in rational dialogue and mutual respect among its members."

However, to assure that the rights of all members of the community are respected, guidelines have been established to ensure that teaching and other functions of the university are not disrupted during the demonstrations.

A copy of these guidelines, which includes restrictions on where demonstrations can be held, is available in the Administrative Offices of the Milo Bail Student Center. Failure to abide by these guidelines may result in formal action being taken against the participants by the university.

The behavior of the students who have participated in the demonstrations on this issue to date has been peaceful and respectful. However, future demonstrations need to be held within the framework of university policy.

> Sincerely, Rita M. Henry Assistant Vice Chancellor Student Affairs

From RENOVATIONS: Page 1

construction is still seeking donors for some of the minor details of the new addition, such as equipment and some furnishings.

"We are still looking for supporters to come along and choose to name a room," Shorb said.

A bill on the Unicameral, LB605, would provide money to the library for internal renovations, Shorb said. This would help them update the heating and electrical as well as upgrade the interior to match the new addition. Shorb believes that voices

New

Donors Can

Earn \$65 This

Week!

from the public will increase the likelihood of the bill being passed.

"We are really hoping this bill gets passed," Shorb said. "Letters from students would have an impact on legislature if they were so inclined."

From GRE: Page 1

quantitative sections. The analytical writing portion will be broken into two 30-minute sections, rather than the present 45-minute issue and 30minute argument sections.

"What is going to happen is the delivery will move from a server delivery to an Internet exam," Fortin-Wavra said. "They will consider it to be a group exam then."

The content of the exam will also change. ETS says that the changes will improve the GRE's validity and, more accurately, reflect the skills needed in graduate studies. Additional information, such as copies of the writing samples produced in the analytic writing portion, will be made available to institutions receiving exam results.

"There is no intention to increase the difficulty level," said David Payne, executive director for the GRE project.

Payne went on to say that the shift of emphasis from vocabulary to critical reasoning skills in the verbal portion was an intentional change.

"We were concerned that you could improve your score by memorizing vocabulary lists," Payne said. In the past year, the UNO Testing Center administered 382 GRE

general aptitude exams. The change to a set of fixed test dates is likely to cause a rush to sign-up in the fall, Fortin-Wavra said. "We will still be offering the exams," Fortin-Wavra said. "I would

strongly encourage students who need the test to schedule early." Even with the changes, there is still some debate over the necessity

of the exam. Some UNO departments, such as criminal justice, require the GRE

as part of their graduate admission applications. "We do require the GRE," said William Wakefield, a criminal justice professor. "That is one measure that we use. All we are looking for is to see if they have the basic fundamental skills required to pursue graduate studies."

Wakefield explained that his department requires student to achieve a certain score—850 for the master's program, 1000 for the doctorial program—as an admissions requirement, similar to an SAT requirement for many undergraduate programs.

"When you get applications from all over the world, you have no opportunity to know whether [the applicants] are prepared," Wakefield said. "It has been standardized over many years. We do know that [the tests] have some reliability."

But other departments, such as history, do not use standardized testing in their admissions process.

"I think we have better measures," said Michael Tate, chair of graduate studies for the history department. "It just does not give you a lot of information. It sets everything down in a multiple-choice answer."

According to Tate, his department tries to use other indicators, such as students' transcripts, essays, research and, when possible, informal interviews to assist in the admissions process.

"The ultimate idea is original research," Tate said. "It is not just that it produces the grade—we try to set pretty high goals."

The new GRE has just finished its last round of field testing, according to Payne. Students who recently took the exam were eligible to be paid to take the new exam. No test center in Nebraska was included in the study.

More detailed information regarding policies, such as what the new scoring system will be and any increases to the administrative fee, will be announced following a meeting between ETS and an advisory board that oversees the GRE this weekend.

"We will have to wait to see what the board says," Payne said.

The new exam is scheduled to begin in October. Students completing the GRE prior to October will not be affected by the changes. ETS will publish additional information regarding the GRE on its Web site, ets.org.

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Want to chang

Organic food for thought: The good and the ugly

MICHAEL MCMANUS ASSISTANT EDITOR

To buy or not to buy, that the organic food question. With food chains like Whole Foods Market and Wild Oats moving into neighborhoods, organic food awareness is rising in the Omaha community.

The market for organic foods is reported to be growing by 20 percent a year. The USDA's economic research service recently stated that over 20,000 natural food stores carry organic foods, and 73 percent of conventional grocery stores are joining the organic movement. However, as this movement gains more popularity, the pros and cons of anything organic are becoming obvious. Marcia Adler, Student Health Services coordinator, believes that many consumers do not fully understand what organic food is.

"The word 'organic' is so broad," she says. "However, most consumers simply hear the word and feel as if they are doing something good for themselves."

Organic food is, in general, food that is produced without the use of artificial pesticides, herbicides and genetically modified organisms. In place of these artificial substances, animal manure is typically used, introduces a problem. which According to the Organic Gardening Almanac, using manure to fertilize vegetables is not necessarily healthier and might actually be dangerous. Manure used in organic compost could contain E.coli bacterium, which can spread harmful animal-borne diseases to humans. This is one of the reasons that washing organic foods thoroughly is so important.

Manure aside, many believe the benefits of an organic lifestyle outweigh the bad. Organic advocates claim that food produced under organic conditions is more nutritious, less toxic, benefits our environment and tastes better. Chelsey Richards, a freshman at UNO, agrees.

"I choose to eat organic because of the health benefits," she says. "It makes me feel healthier and the food is produced without toxins. If you go buy a bag of chips at Wal-Mart, who knows what kind of process they went through? At least I know what I'm eating and how it's made." There is no doubt that "going organic" seems tempting, and Adler believes that in not to buy organic is, in fact, a great question.



photo by Alex May

Whole Foods Market, pictured here, is one of several Omaha-area grocers offering a wide variety of organic foods.

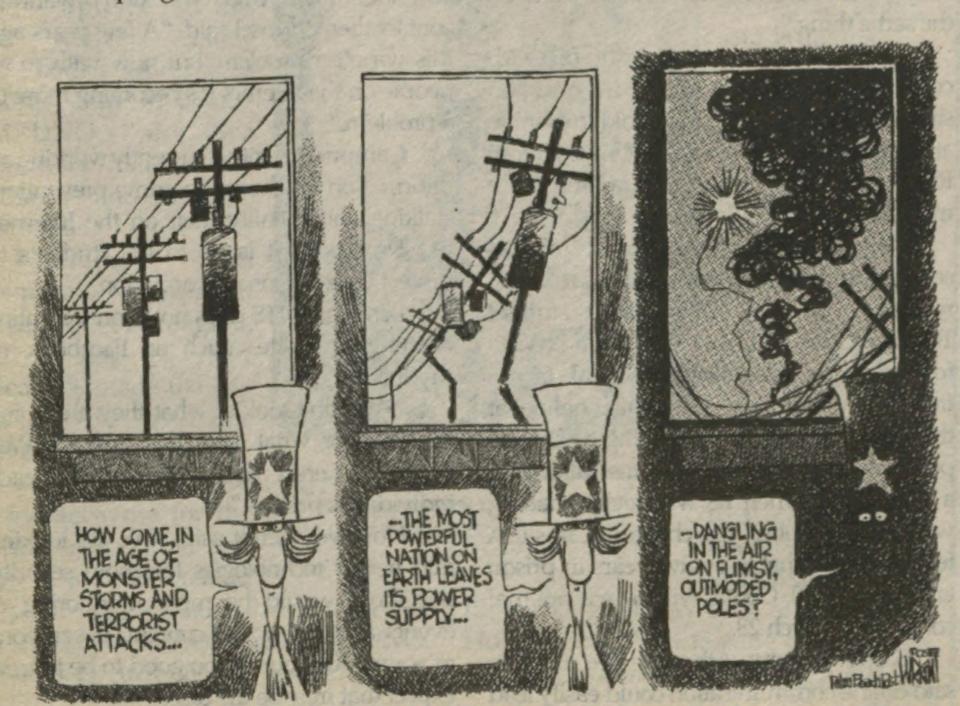
certain cases, it can be beneficial.

"Thosewhohavepoorimmunesystems or are suffering from cancer could benefit from avoiding food with contaminants," she says. "However, healthy adults need to consume a certain amount of contaminants to build a healthy immune system."

One thing is for sure: Organic foods are usually more expensive. A gallon of 2 percent milk costs about \$2.25 at Wal-Mart. A gallon of organic milk at a specialty store can cost up to \$4. "Organic food is a niche, but a profitable niche-give consumers what they truly want or need and they will dig deeply into their pockets," says Jerry Dryer of J/D/G Consulting, a leader in the dairy food business.

There are still many questions to ask when discussing the "organic movement." Science is always subject to a challenge based on new observations. So who knows if the debate will ever end?

With 39 percent of the U.S. population using organic products regularly, to buy or



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Want to change it up? Check out a tucked-away tavern

REVIEW BY KATIE ZABROCKI STAFF WRITER

Going out can mean different things to different people. One person might think of mixed drinks at a dance club, while another might think of a couple of pitchers with a buddy at some hole-in-the-wall joint.

A lot of times, the latter can be just as much, or more, fun.

I took the opportunity to make the rounds to some of the less-than-glamorous establishments around town. The places ranged from cozy but secluded, to the typical neighborhood bar.

So, here's a shout out to some of those dives that beckon us with their cheap beer and questionable interior design.

Everyone has seen the 49r. The huge sign out

front on 49th and Dodge Streets makes it hard to miss. But you park in the back (or else a little down the street and walk) and go in through a sketchy-looking back door. As I walk down the stairs into the smoky bar, it never ceases to amaze me how many people will fill that place on any given night. It always seems like you just manage to find the last open table. The jukebox is playing anything from the Pixies to Johnny Cash. The 49'r is also a place for 21-andolder live music shows. It's midtown, close to UNO and crawling with hipsters.

O'Leavers is a mainstay for live music and volleyball. It was quiet this Wednesday as I was looking around, sipping on my first of several \$2 Old Style tall boys. It's definitely not a big bar, but the back is set up for bands to play. The walls are covered with album sleeves (I saw Rick James by the bathroom). It's also a midtown bar on Saddle Creek Road, off Center Street.

I like champagne, but really, is there a good excuse to drink it if it's not New Year's Eve or a wedding reception? Of course! The Homy Inn has champagne on tap along with other assorted beers. This week I settled down with Woodchuck (a cider), and a dogdish (the food and water kind) of peanuts with one half-empty to discard your shells. The Homy is covered in...stuff. The walls are plastered with old newspapers and our table had various currencies under a good layer of shellac ("This can't be real!" my unnamed friend exclaimed as he was looking at a \$100,000 bill). The Homy Inn is another smoky tavern with a ton of personality. It's off Saddle Creek Road, across the street from Sgt. Peffer's. You can go whether young or

old, wear whatever and still fit in.

Even though it's far from unsavory, I have to include the Goofy Foot primarily because of its seclusion. The downtown bar is on 10th and Pacific Streets and is hard to find if you're not looking for it. There's no legitimate sign to speak of, since I don't count "The Goofy Foot" two inches tall written on one of the windows as a sign. This bar has the feel of a friend's house. There are couches around coffee tables tucked in various corners and wooden floors and walls. The Goofy Foot is actually the nicest place on this list and can meet pretty much any drinking need. I had

a really spicy—but still delicious—Bloody Mary before switching to beer on Thursday. Tuesdays are karaoke night, and you can also look for the Goofy Foot to have live music from the

JazzWholes on Sundays.

This list really wouldn't be complete without Brother's, with its bad lighting, horrible seating and an overall feel of unseemliness. But Brother's still has a notorious following from the scenester crowd. After entering, be prepared to fork over an ID to be examined with the fiercest scrutiny I've ever encountered. If you want to drink some beer and hang out with the people you came with, Brother's is a good

Ok, now we're going to go for the gold in obscurity. Ever heard of the Village Bar? Probably not. This little guy is located in downtown Ralston on 77th Street. Growing up in Ralston, I remember seeing this place all the time. After turning 21, it only seemed appropriate to check it out. It takes the cake with \$1 draws of Old Style any time. It is a local bar with a pool table and a juke box. You might be the last one there at 10 p.m., but that's okay because then you'll get to chat with one bartender. He'll harass your friend to quit smoking and probably tell you a story or two. The Village Bar isn't likely to ever be a hot spot, but it is the epitome of a neighborhood bar, regulars and all. Check out any smalltime corner bars if you're in a rut. I doubt they vary much from the Village Bar, but everyone needs a change in scenery once in a while.

So if you're sick of the meat market and want to lay low on the weekend, try stopping by one of these slightly seedier spots. No need for primping, you'll actually fit in better if you're looking a little grungy Have a few beers and have a good time for less work and less money.

Crossword

39

ACROSS 1 Flabby

5 Little demons

9 Stitched 14 Louisville's river

15 Writer Bellow

16 Create text 17 Rather and Quayle

18 Loyalty 20 Trajectories 21 Barking dog

22 Surprised exclamations 23 Respectful Hindu title

25 Statuesque 27 Mother-of-pearl

31 Repeat again and again

35 Beltway 38 More nervous 39 Dander

40 __ time's a charm

42 Slot-filler 43 Easter event

46 Poetic pairs 49 Noisy napper

50 Hide house 51 Follow closely

53 Re-mark prices 57 Make things happen

60 Find secondary corrections 64 Radio

enthusiast 65 Spicy topping 67 Bar mitzvah

dance 68 Spooky 69 Tie tie

70 Author Bagnold 71 Process parts

72 Desires 73 Espies

DOWN 1 Fountain buys 2 "Lovey Childs"

author 3 Grosbeak, e.g. 4 Step in salad preparation

5 Brit's indignant comment

6 Manly 7 Influence 65 66

15

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2/8/08

55 56

8 Enjoyed a siesta Solutions

9 Formed eddies 10 Time worth noting

11 Boozer 12 Impress clearly

13 Poor grades 19 Rarin' to go 24 Drinks counter

26 Part of a tour 28 Cliques 29 Collegiate cheer

30 Decree 32 Quote, as an example

33 Miami team 34 Crystal balls, e.g.

35 Taylor and Torn 36 Neighbor of Iraq 37 Fiddling

emperor 41 Canape spread 44 Expertise

45 So-and-sos, affectionately 47 Part of mph

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BEECHO NACRE BIHAR JJAT VELPER OHS SOBA

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ALLEGIANCE

boat 54 Rib-eye alternative

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BATBA

59 Make weary 61 Sand ridge 62 PC image

58 Guitarist Atkins

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From ONLINE SECURITY: Page 1

communication for academic, professional and personal," said Steve Lendt, director of Information Technology Infrastructure. "It's a growing trend."

But as online communication gains popularity, it is also becoming a security issue.

On Jan. 6, a female student living at Scott Village called in a complaint to the Offutt Air Force Base police after an airman she met online came to her dorm, said Paul Kosel, assistant manager of Campus Security. Kosel said the girl didn't want to meet him anymore, so she called base police.

Although the airman was banned from campus, Kosel said, "There are others like him.... that doesn't mean someone can't do the same thing."

Nationally, Internet security on such community sites has been in question since Taylor Behl, a 17-year-old freshman at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, was allegedly murdered by a man she met on MySpace.

Recently, local efforts to curb Internet solicitation of minors provided a surprising result: On Dec. 6, 2005, UNO student Terrance Coufal, 21, was arrested in LaVista for suspicion of soliciting sexual favors from an under-aged girl while online at the PKI computer lab, according to LaVista police. Coufal thought he was talking to a young girl when he was really chatting with LaVista police. The charge, a Class IIIA felony, is punishable by five years in prison and/or \$10,000. Coufal will have a pre-trial conference March 28.

Sarpy County Attorney Lee Polikov said online communication could easily lead to discussions about sex.

"In any chat room, the discussion goes from sports and horses to sex," Polikov said.

Kosel said the best safety tip when dealing with online communication is just not to do it.

"You don't know who's on the other end of the line, so if you're taking that risk, that's what you're going to run into," he said. "Online you can lie all you want."

Kosel said students should never give out personal information such as phone numbers or addresses while online. He also said posting pictures of yourself could be dangerous.

"Until you know this person and have had a chance to meet them face-to-face and look them over, you don't want to contact them," Kosel said. "A few years ago this wasn't a problem, but now with more people on the Internet it's becoming more of a problem."

Campus Security is currently working on information brochures on crime prevention, stalking and identity theft on the Internet. But Kosel said it is up to the students to protect their personal information.

Lendt said ITS does not monitor online chatting and sites such as Facebook or MySpace.

"We don't look at what they are doing in e-mail or what sites they visit for Web surfing," Lendt said. "We respect each individual's privacy."

However, Lendt said, "We are looking into newer technologies for more security, but those would be more monitoring of events and not actual content. If someone or something sounds too good to be to true, expect that may be the case."

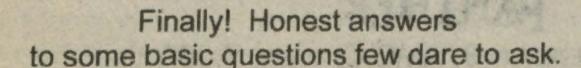
Is there Life Can consciousness survive the body's death? How do you define God?

Is he omnipotent? If not, are miracles possible? Was Jesus bodily resurrected? Will we?

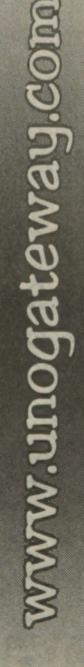
These are just some of the many questions tackled by science in

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ENTERTAINMENT

Andrew Cumbee | Entertainment Editor

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entertainment@gateway.unomaha.edu | February 3, 2006

Rebound and Gagged playing at UNO this weekend

ANDREW CUMBEE **ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR**

If you are looking for a different way to spend your weekend, look no further than your very own UNO campus. Rebound and Gagged opened Wednesday and continues through Saturday night in the Weber Fine Arts building.

The play is about three friends and what their lives have turned into five years after graduating from college. Kyle, the main character, has just broken up with his serious girlfriend of four years and has no idea how to cope with it. His friend and current roommate, Cooper, is realizing that her life has not lived up to its expectations, and that all of her sorority sisters and college friends are getting married and have "real" jobs. Kyle's best friend and old roommate Jase moves back into town after a year away and realizes, like it or not, that everyone around him is getting older and he may or may not be also.

The plot is a little tired and sometimes too predictable, but the way that it's written kept my attention the entire time. It feels new and fresh even if the topics covered are not. Aaron Ginsburg, the writer, provides some witty dialogue and handles everything in a way that keeps

it sounding original, at least. Director Aaron Michael Gomez, a senior in the theater department at UNO, along with Assistant Director Joe Koll, keep the action moving and energetic without everything becoming clustered and confusing. With the minimalist set, Kyle's apartment becomes bars, workplaces, and social halls, but thanks to the lighting and staging, everything is completely clean and understandable. Most



photo by Caelan Millerd

The cast from Rebound and Gagged, (front) Dan Moluf, Jeffrey Bell and Rachel Samson with (back) Amy Castro and John Paul Carmody.

importantly for a comedy, they make sure that it doesn't drag and stays enjoyable throughout.

The performances are all great. Jeffrey Bell as Kyle perfectly captures the torment of a broken heart trying to continue living, while Rachel Samson as Cooper provides all the necessary qualities needed for her character to shine as a near-hopeless premidlife crisis victim. Dan Moluf as Jase completes the main characters with his nice performance as the college freshman trapped in the body of a 28-year-old man. Rounding

out the cast are John Paul Carmody and Amy Castro as the other male and female roles. Both do a fantastic job of differentiating their multiple roles, and providing humor to their characters.

This is only the fourth time this show has ever been performed for audiences. Ginsburg actually knows Paul Eric Pape, a

professor in the theater department in scenic design and technical production. Because of that fact, he came to UNO to see the show in early rehearsals and got to meet the cast and crew, which is something uncommon to college productions.

Rebound and Gagged was entirely produced by students. FAUST, the theater department's equivalent of a business fraternity, controlled all aspects of the production, and it's nice to see what can be accomplished.

The bottom line is that this is a fun show that is definitely worth seeing. With a ticket price of \$5, it's hard to beat. The cool thing about this to me is that we can see a show like this at UNO. It features adult content and explicit language, something that you normally don't see around here. The show can connect with anyone.

Gomez said, "I wanted to create a sort of flashback of the audience's life whether they've lived it, are living it or have yet to go through it."

And that's what makes it so good ... we relate to it.

"We've all experienced bad breakups. It's easy to understand where the characters are coming from in this show," Gomez said.

If you're looking for a great way to spend your weekend, Rebound and Gagged is just that.

Rebound and Gagged has shows tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. in Room 006 in the Weber Fine Arts building. For more information, call 554-2406.

Sundance: A religious experience for UNO religion professors

MICHAEL MCMANUS ASSISTANT FEATURES / ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The Sundance annual independent film festival came to a close on Jan. 29. Films and viewers from all around the world traveled to the small town of Park City Utah, a town of 8,000, to see what films would reign supreme at this year's festival. Among the visitors were Paris Hilton, Jenny McCarthy and UNO's very own professors Paul Allen Williams and Michele Desmarais.

Williams and assistant Desmarais, professors of religion, and a few of their colleagues made the trip to Park City with one goal in mind: religion.

Williams and Desmarais write for the Journal of Religion and Film, a journal created

Williams is currently the editor, and is

thrilled with his position.

"It's delightful. Like most individuals, I've always enjoyed watching films.

> always noticed connection between film and religion, but never had a systematic approach to study When I came to UNO and read the journal, I was excited to begin," said Williams.

It's common to find religious undertones in many of today's popular films, he said. Some will say that religion is marketable, while others say it's a Williams fad. has an interesting perspective on this concept.

"There has always religious been dimensions

by professor William Blizek and the film. This goes way back to the start of late professor Robert Burke of UNO. Hollywood. When looking at films like The Ten Commandments, Ben Hur and The

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Deadline for ads is Friday February 11 at noon.



photo by Michelle Bishop Religion professors return to UNO after their Sundance trip.

2006 Oscar nominations show low-budget is high-brow

CHARLEY REED
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Every year at the end of January, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences reveals their nominations for the previous year's Academy Awards. Some years are controlled by box-office blockbusters or acting superstars. But other years, the categories are dominated by independent hits and first-time nominees. The year 2006 looks to be the latter.

The early favorite is *Brokeback Mountain*, which topped the nominations with eight nods, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor and Best Adapted Screen Play. The film has been the critical darling of the awards season, racking up across-the-board wins for the film and director Ang Lee.

Something else working in *Brokeback's* favor is that there is a strong track record for the movie that gets the most nominations to take home the Best Picture award, too. Look for the film to walk away with more than a few golden statues.

Another favorite is George Clooney, who might as well be man of the year after setting an Academy Awards record with three individual nominations: Best Supporting Actor for Syriana as well as two nominations for Good Night, and Good Luck: Best Director and Best Original Screenplay. As good a year as Clooney is having, the Academy is going to want to recognize him, and so chances are he'll wind up at that podium on Oscar night for at least one of those awards.

The dark horse candidates stem from two movies: Crash and Good Night, and Good Luck, both with six nominations. Each film got nominations for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Original Screenplay while each movie got an acting nod: Best Supporting Actor for Matt Dillon in Crash and Best Actor for David Strathairn in Good Night, and Good Luck.

Both films are so thoroughly embraced by the creative forces in Hollywood that they may steal some awards from *Brokeback Mountain*.

Unfortunately for the two outstanding films, the likelihood is that both may only get one, if any, of the awards they are nominated for. Every year there are Oscar snubs, and this year was no different. Don Cheadle was passed over for a win last year for his performance in *Hotel Rwanda*, and was left out this year for his supporting role in the previously mentioned *Crash*. Cheadle may be able to take comfort in the fact that he is nominated as a producer for *Crash*, but Cheadle most likely will not be a part of any wins the film receives.

Walk the Line was able to land two of the highest profile awards, Best Actor and Actress for Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon, but it missed out on pretty much everything else. After winning the Golden Globe for Best Picture – Comedy or Musical, it was completely left out of this year's list of nominees. Worst of all, Walk the Line might even be snubbed completely because Felicity Huffman and Phillip Seymour Hoffmann will provide strong competition for Phoenix and Witherspoon.

No matter who wins, the true winners of this year's Academy Awards are previously low-profile films from studios like Focus Features, Lions Gate Films, and the newly formed Weinstein Company who fielded a majority of films being considered for the big-time awards.

This year is also a refreshing change because many first-time nominees and low-budget indie super hits are dotting the landscape. It truly is a big step in the right direction for these small-market films to dominate this year's Academy Awards, but chances are that this is the exception to the rule rather than a changing of the guard for the Academy, so my advice is to enjoy it while you can at this year's Oscar presentation on March 5 on ABC. I know I will.

Stones roll through Qwest Center



From SUNDANCE: Page 5

Robe, it becomes apparent. Most of these storylines came from the Hebrew bible, so it's always been there, and most of these movies were big hits. Movies like The Passion of the Christ and The Chronicles of Narnia are a continuation of how these movies can be quite successful," said Williams.

When Williams and Desmarais left for the Sundance film festival, they selected films they believed would be the most beneficial to the journal.

"We didn't go down to see the next big blockbuster or the biggest star, we went down to simply analyze religion in film," Williams said.

There were quite a few messages the professors were looking for. Religion and film go beyond just the movies and studios telling religious stories. Religious themes, characters and storylines can be incorporated into films in ways that may not seem apparent to the average viewer.

"There are many films that are not overtly about religion, but may have religious elements to them," Williams said. "The *Matrix* being a prime example. I was recently interviewed about the connection between the movie *Groundhog Day* and religion, which isn't a movie that most would connect with religion. There is, however, a partnership between the two."

Writers for the journal have been going to the festival for the past six years, and Williams has attended twice.

"What we basically do is write a report on Sundance based on the movies

we were able to view. It ends up being a report containing a series of short films that we think might interest our readers," said Williams.

While in Park City, Williams and his colleagues saw several dozen movies. He personally saw five, and will never forget his favorite short film called "Kiss me not on the Eyes," by filmmaker Jocelyn Sabb. The story took place in Cairo, Egypt and is entirely in Arabic. The film is about a young woman who strived to be a belly dancer, because her mother was a great belly dancer. The practice of genital mutilation or female circumcision was also prominent in the film.

Many people may look at this story and think it's only a story about a belly dancer, or female circumcision, but it's not, Williams said. The film is actually about the Arabic culture through the lens of the Sufi religious tradition, a tradition within Islam. Each of the elements of the story, the music, dance, poetry and literature that is referenced, are all cultural expressions of the Sufi traditions. It's a film about how Islam is very liberating but also how forces within the Muslim world can be more constraining and oppressive. Williams had the chance to sit down with the director.

"I had the chance to talk to Jocelyn Sabb for quite some time. I told her what I saw in the film and she responded by saying 'precisely'," said Williams. However she couldn't talk about the negative elements of the film due to

threats; a newspaper had announced that she was condemned to death for producing this movie. They believed that this film offended people's religious sensibilities even though she was only trying to show the beauty and richness of this same religion.

Although Williams considers his conversation with the film director to be the highlight of his trip, seeing a few celebrities did add a little "zest" to his week.

"I actually ran into Al Gore in the bathroom," said Williams. "We were in the hotel bathroom and there he was, so I decided to strike up a conversation. Why pass up the opportunity to talk to someone with some sort of political experience?"

Williams also saw Jenny McCarthy, and believes he may have seen John Cusack.

"If not, he sure looked like him," said Williams.

The thing about the Sundance film festival that some don't realize is that

most of the people who attend the event are there to work. The actors, directors and writers are there to promote their film and get a little publicity.

"There really aren't tourists and fans mobbing the actors; they have a job to do, so they aren't gathering signatures and autographs," said Williams.

The Sundance Film Festival is known to be one of the most important American film festivals around. It's the chance for the little guy to be successful and have his/her shot at the big-time.

"The Sundance Institute really does a great job helping upcoming talent in film. The studio system is increasingly controlled by the major corporate interest and restricts many opportunities. Sundance is completely open-minded to keeping access open to people who don't have big budgets or names," said Williams.

The Journal of Religion and Film already has the 2006 Sundance report online, and can be viewed at http://www.unomaha.edu/jrf/.



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The Fairbanks curse

John Thomas

Insider

Having to wake up at 4 a.m. won't kill you. Flying from Omaha to Minneapolis, from Minneapolis to Anchorage, and then

from Anchorage to Fairbanks isn't really that bad. But stepping off a plane and walking into 46 degrees below zero temperatures may be the straw that breaks the camel's

Every year my hockey team makes the trek to the snowy tundra of Fairbanks, Alaska. Sometimes it's dark for almost the entire day, other times the sunlight's reflection off the snow is blinding. But light or dark, snow or sleet, our games against the Fairbanks Nanooks must go on.

This past weekend was my team's eighth year traveling to Alaska. I remember the captains my freshman year getting us pumped up to play. Senior captain Greg Zannon would holler, "We've never won here boys, it's time to get the job done."

Now, three years later, our current captain Mike Lefley preaches the same message. That's right, prior to this twogame weekend our team record in Fairbanks is 0-10-4.

So it's no surprise that the Alaska trip isn't one the guys look forward to. It's not like we get to sightsee or experience some of the great things Fairbanks has to offer. We see the rink, our hotel and whatever scenery is visible from the bus. The time change, which puts us three hours behind Omaha, keeps our bodies in flux until we're ready to head back. Then the flight back gets our clocks messed up all over again. We skate on an ice surface that's larger than what we're used to, in a building that's colder than ours and against a team that always seems to play their very best games when we come into town. It seems like a no-win situation.

But an exciting opportunity is presented

every time we skate on the Nanooks' ice. The chance to be the first team in Maverick hockey history to snap the "Fairbanks

Nobody will Curse." remember when the team gets its second, third or fourth win there (hopefully it doesn't take seven more years). But fans will recall the year the curse was finally broken. The team that was able to do what so many Maverick teams before them couldn't.

Well on Jan. 27, after seven years of failure, we finally "got it done." After

period, we were able to battle back and win week. Kafka, a junior from the game 4-1. The next night, we were able to once again fight our way back from a deficit, this time settling for a tie. We received three out of four possible points, helping us Hockey Association.

I wish I could have been there to see it, feel it and to be a part of it. The NCAA only allows a certain number of players to travel with the team on road trips. Our team carries a substantial number of players in case of injuries, academic inadequacies and to promote team competition. I was one of the seven guys who listened to the games from the edge of my seat here in Omaha. Although I wasn't on the ice for the historic victory, I was one of the seven guys who helped the team prepare for games with a week's worth of intense practices.

I hope the floodgates in Fairbanks are finally blown open, and that our wins there begin to pour through violently. I feel my team's younger players have what it takes to stack up wins in Fairbanks in coming years. And I anticipate Maverick hockey fans will remember the year, and the team, that was able to break the "Fairbanks Curse."

Swimmers end regular season 10-4

LIZ SELZER SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The UNO swimming and diving

team splashed to a 10-4 regular season record and is now preparing for the North Central Conference Tournament.

In their last regular season meet, the Mavericks outscored Northern Colorado 159-139 defeated and Northern Iowa 195-98.

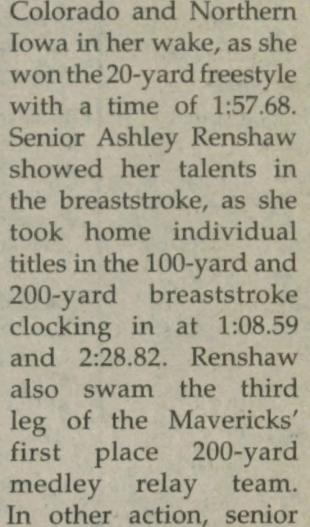
Junior Sheena Kafka was named NCC Diver of the Week, and teammate going down by a goal Lindsey Kline was honored midway through the first as NCC co-swimmer of the Omaha, swept the diving

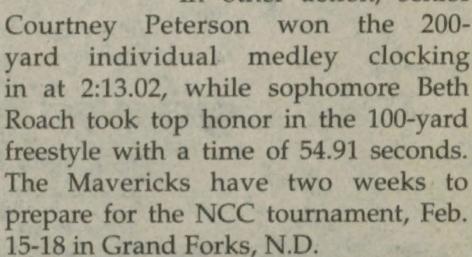
events, taking four first-place finishes in last weekend's duals. She had scores of 249.05 on the one-meter, and 272.80 advance our ranking in the Central Collegiate on the three-meter Friday, and 249.38 on the one-meter and 269.33 on the threemeter Saturday.

> During Friday's dual, Kline placed third in the 500-yard freestyle with a

time of five minutes, 11.05 seconds, which is a B-Cut time for the NCAA Nationals.

On Saturday, Kline left Northern







Ashley Renshaw

Chastain to speak at Women's Walk luncheon

LIZ SELZER

The UNO Women's Walk has become one of the largest and oldest events in the nation for women's athletics, and this year UNO is honored to have Brandi Chastain as the featured speaker at the Diet Pepsi/UNO Women's Walk

star, Chastain is most famous for her winning penalty kick in the 1999 Soccer World Cup Finals, which put a new face on the world of women's soccer. In 1996, she played every minute of all five matches, to help the U.S. team win the gold-medal in the Centennial Olympic Games. She was also a member of the gold-medal West Team in the 1993 U.S. Olympic Festival and was on the U.S. Women's National team that won the first FIFA Women's World Cup in 1991 in China.

Santa Clara Broncos to two NCAA Final Four appearances back in her college days. Chastain is currently an assistant coach at Santa Clara University, where her husband, Jerry Smith, is the head coach.

The luncheon will take place March 8 at 11:30 a.m. and will be held at the Double Tree Hotel, 1616 Dodge St. Tickets are available for \$55 per person or \$500 for a table of 10. To make reservations or receive additional information, contact 554-2533.

The event kicks off the 21st annual walk, to be held on Saturday, April 22, on the UNO campus. Proceeds from the walk support the scholarship program for all UNO women athletes. Last year's walk raised over \$300,000, bringing the 20-year total to more than \$2.6 million. The event attracts more than 1,000 walkers each year.

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

kick-off luncheon. A World Cup and Olympic soccer

The 1990 All-American led the

COMPILED BY NATHAN LEETE SPORTS EDITOR

May Notes

Baseball to kick off season this weekend

The UNO baseball team will travel to Colorado this weekend to start the 2006 baseball season. The Mavericks will face Regis in a four-game series in Denver, with double-headers on Saturday and Sunday. Last season the Mavericks posted a 42-19 record. The team won the North Central Conference and fell just shy of the NCAA Division II World Series.

Wrestlers to take on two top five teams

The No. 1 ranked UNO wrestling team will take on two top five teams this weekend. Friday night the Mavericks will travel to Edmond, Okla. to defend their unbeaten streak against No. 3 Central Oklahoma at 7 p.m., then turn around and travel to Kearney to wrestle No. 5 Nebraska-Kearney at 4 p.m. on Saturday. The Mavericks outscored Augsburg and St. Cloud State by a combined score of 77-10.

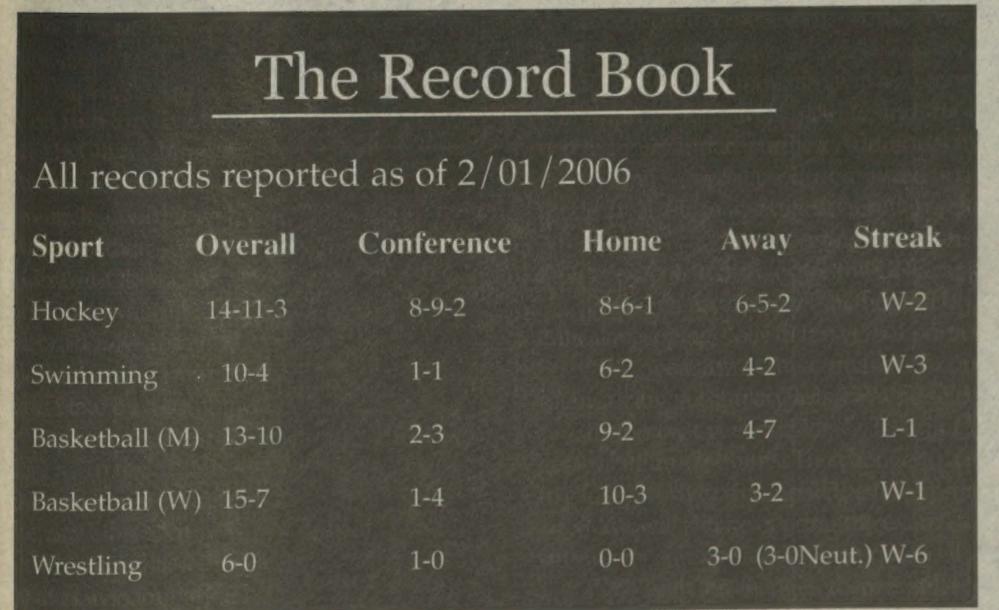
Tennis opens 2006 season at Hanscom Park

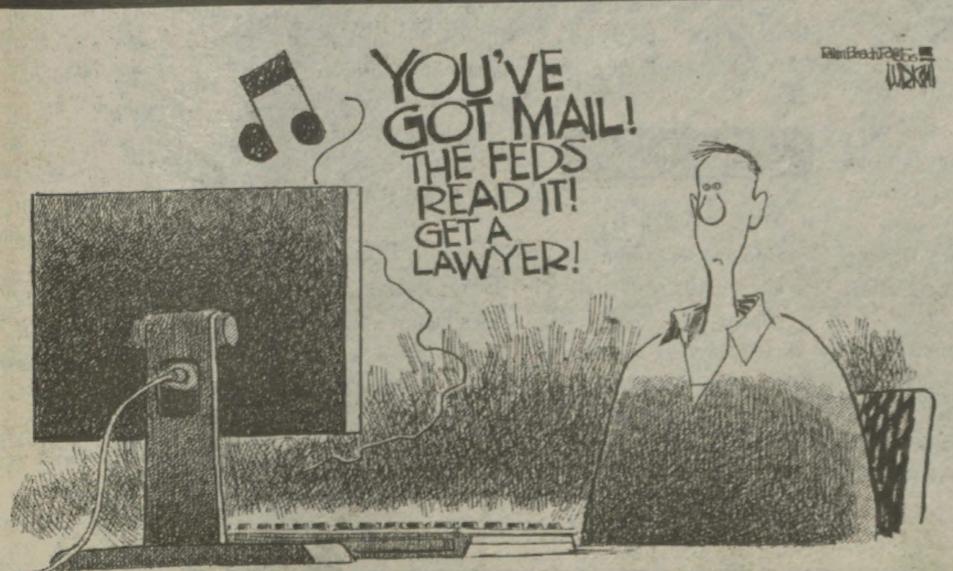
The UNO tennis team will host Nebraska Wesleyan Friday night at Hanscom Park. The Mavericks hold a 6-0 all-time record against the Prairie Wolves.

Last year was the best season in school history for the Mavericks, who won their first North Central Conference championship and their first North Central Regional championship. The match begins at 6:30 p.m.

Track heads for Graphic Edge Challenge.

The UNO track and field team travels to Vermillion, S.D. on Saturday for the Graphic Edge Division II Challenge. The meet will take place in the DakotaDome and is hosted by the University of South Dakota. The team had eight athletes place in the top five last week at the Iowa State Open.







Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building Hours

Monday - Thursday: 6:30 AM - 11:00 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM Saturday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM Sunday: 12:00 PM - 10:00 PM

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Chair Massage Service:

Friday, Feb. 17 from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM in HPER 213 \$10 for a 15 minute massage Administered by Licensed Massage Therapists Register in advance in HPER 100!!!! (Walk-ins permitted if time permits)

Youth Golf Lessons (Ages 8-15):

Saturdays, Feb. 11, 18, 25 & Mar. 4 in HPER 230 \$15 for children of UNO Activity Cardholders \$20 for children of General Public \$10 for each additional child of same family

During the four-week class both Beginner (10:00 AM - 11:00 AM) and Intermediate Sessions (11:00 AM - 12:00 PM) will be available. Instructed by UNO Women's Golf Coach, Tim

Register in advance in HPER 100!!!! (Limited to first 16 registrees)

Questions? Call Dave 554.2008

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Class meets Mondays & Thursdays (January 23 April 28) from 5:30 PM - 6:20 PM in HPER Pool \$5/month for UNO Freshmen Students \$10/month for all other UNO Students \$90/semester for UNO Staff/Activity Cardholders \$100/semester for General Public

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Mav-Rec **IM Sports**

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Basketball Skills Competition: Monday, Feb. 6 at 7:00 PM Will be held in HPER Gymnasium No registration required!!!

Questions? Call Isaac 554.2634

Trips & Workshops:

Cross Country Skiing in the Grand Teton:

Pre-Trip Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Trip Dates:

Saturday, Mar. 11 - Sunday, Mar. 19 \$335 for UNO Students/Faculty

\$386 for General Public Add \$15 if registering after Mar. I

Join the OVC on a Spring Break Trip to one of the country's premier national parks -- The Grand Teton.

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Sat, Feb. 18 & Sun. Feb. 19 from 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM \$75 for UNO Students/Faculty \$90 for General Public

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· Learn skills needed to deal with emergency situations beyond the scope of traditional settings.

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